

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1     1.     (Amended) A tension adjusting device attached to an axle member of a driven
- 2     wheel of a vehicle and coupled to a forked frame member ~~to adjust~~ for adjusting
- 3     a tension of a flexible power transmission means that transfers power from a
- 4     drive shaft of said vehicle to said driven wheel, said tension adjusting device
- 5     comprising:
- 6             a first tension adjuster joined to a first side of said axle member, said first
- 7             tension adjuster comprising:
- 8             a first adjustment plate having a first dimension to slidably engage a
- 9             guide recess of a first fork of said forked frame member and a
- 10            second dimension sufficient to support a first axle fastener to said
- 11            axle member to said first adjustment plate, said first adjustment
- 12            plate including:
- 13            an extending member that extends over an end of said first fork,
- 14            an axle bore through which said first side of said axle member
- 15            passes to receive the first axle fastener to secure said axle
- 16            member to said first adjustment plate and couple said first
- 17            adjustment plate to said first fork of said forked frame
- 18            member, and

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

19 a capturing recess inlet into said first adjustment plate to secure  
 20 first axle fastener to prevent movement of said first axle  
 21 fastener during the coupling of the driven wheel, and  
 22 an adjustment bore through said extending member, said  
 23 adjuster bore aligned with said end of said first fork, and  
 24 a first adjustment stud affixed through said adjustment bore to said first  
 25 adjustment plate such that said adjustment stud is in contact with  
 26 the end of said first fork to allow the axle member of the driven  
 27 wheel to move in an adjustment slot within said guide recess to  
 28 adjust the tension of the power transmission means;  
 29 a second tension adjuster joined to a second side of said axle member,  
 30 said second tension adjuster comprising:  
 31 a second adjustment plate having a first dimension to slidably engage  
 32 a guide recess of a second fork of said forked frame member and a  
 33 second dimension sufficient to support a second axle fastener to  
 34 said axle member to said second adjustment plate, said second  
 35 adjustment plate including:  
 36 an extending member that extends over an end of said second  
 37 fork,

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

38 an axle bore through which said second side of said axle  
39 member passes to receive the second axle fastener to  
40 secure said axle member to said second adjustment plate  
41 and couple said second adjustment plate to said second fork  
42 of said forked frame member, and

43 an adjustment bore through said extending member, said  
44 adjuster bore aligned with said end of said second fork, and

45 a second adjustment stud affixed through said adjustment bore to said  
46 second adjustment plate such that said adjustment stud is in  
47 contact with the end of said second fork to allow the axle member  
48 of the driven wheel to move in an adjustment slot within said guide  
49 recess to adjust the tension of the power transmission means.

- 1 2. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein said tension  
2 adjusting device is used to replace an original equipment tension adjusting  
3 device integrated within said forked frame member and placed forward of the  
4 axle member within said guide recesses of the first and second forks.
- 1 3. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein the first and second  
2 adjustment plates are formed of materials selected from the group of materials  
3 ~~comprising~~ consisting of steel, aluminum, titanium and carbon epoxy.

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

- 1 4. (Original) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein the first tension  
2 adjuster further comprises a captivating nut secured to the first adjustment plate  
3 within said adjustment bore to accept said first adjustment stud.
  
- 1 5. (Original) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein the second tension  
2 adjuster further comprises a captivating nut secured to the second adjustment  
3 plate within said adjustment bore to accept said second adjustment stud.
  
- 1 6. (Original) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein the first and second  
2 adjustment studs are threaded and include a securing nut which, when said first  
3 and second adjusting studs have moved said driven wheel such that said flexible  
4 power transmission means has a correct tension, said securing nut for the first  
5 and second adjustment studs are placed to lock said first and second adjustment  
6 studs respectively to the first and second adjustment plates.
  
- 1 7. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein the first and second  
2 adjustment plates each include at least one guide marking placed to insure that  
3 the ~~axel~~axle member is oriented with respect to said forked frame member.
  
- 1 8. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 1 wherein the flexible power  
2 transmission means is selected from the group of transmission means consisting  
3 of a chain and said chain is engaged with teeth of a sprocket coupled to said  
4 driven wheel and a belt placed on a pulley coupled to said driven wheel.
  
- 1 9. (Cancelled)

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

1     10.     (Amended) A tension adjusting device attached to an axle member of a driven  
2     wheel of a vehicle and coupled to a forked frame member ~~to adjust~~ for adjusting  
3     tension of a flexible power transmission means that transfers power from a drive  
4     shaft of said vehicle to said driven wheel, said tension adjusting device  
5     comprising:

6             a tension adjuster joined to one side of said axle member, said first  
7             tension adjuster comprising:

8             an adjustment plate with a first dimension to slidably engage a guide  
9             recess of a fork of said forked frame member and a second  
10            dimension sufficient to support an axle fastener to said axle  
11            member to said adjustment plate, said adjustment plate including:

12            an extending member that extends over an end of said fork,

13            an axle bore through which said side of said axle member  
14            passes to receive the axle fastener to secure said axle  
15            member to said first adjustment plate and couple said first  
16            adjustment plate to said first fork of said forked frame  
17            member, and

18            an adjustment bore through said extending member, said  
19            adjuster bore aligned with said end of said fork, and

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

20 a first adjustment stud affixed through said adjustment bore to said  
21 adjustment plate such that said adjustment stud is in contact with  
22 the end of said fork to allow the axle member of the driven wheel to  
23 move in an adjustment slot within said guide recess to adjust the  
24 tension of the power transmission means.

1 11. (Original) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein the adjustment plate  
2 further comprises:

3 a capturing recess inlet into said adjustment plate that secures said axle  
4 fastener to prevent movement of said axle fastener during the coupling  
5 of the driven wheel.

1 12. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein said tension  
2 adjusting device is used to replace an original equipmnt tension adjusting device  
3 integrated within said forked frame member and placed forward of the axle  
4 member within said guide recesses of the first and second forks.

1 13. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein the adjustment  
2 plates are formed of materials selected from the group of materials ~~comprising~~  
3 consisting of steel, aluminum, titanium and carbon epoxy.

1 14. (Original) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein the tension adjuster  
2 further comprises a captivating nut secured to the first adjustment plate within  
3 said adjustment bore to accept said first adjustment stud.

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

1 15. (Original) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein the adjustment stud is  
2 threaded and includes a securing nut which, when said adjusting stud has moved  
3 said driven wheel such that said flexible power transmission means has a correct  
4 tension, said securing nut for the adjustment stud is placed to lock said  
5 adjustment stud to the adjustment plate.

1 16. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein the adjustment  
2 plates include at least one guide marking placed to insure that the ~~axel~~axle  
3 member is oriented with respect to said forked frame member.

1 17. (Amended) The tension adjusting device of claim 10 wherein the flexible power  
2 transmission means is selected from the group of power transmission means  
3 consisting of a chain and said chain is engaged with teeth of a sprocket coupled  
4 to said driven wheel and a belt placed on a pulley coupled to said driven wheel.

1 18. (Cancelled)

1 19. (Amended) A method ~~to replace an original equipment tension adjusting device~~  
2 ~~attached to an axle member of a driven wheel of a vehicle and coupled to a~~  
3 ~~forked frame member to adjust for adjusting~~ tension of a flexible power  
4 transmission means that transfers power from a drive shaft of said vehicle to said  
5 driven wheel, said method comprising the steps of:

6 ~~removing said original equipment tension adjusting device from said~~  
7 ~~forked frame member and said axle member;~~

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

8 providing a replacement tension adjusting device, said replacement  
9 tension adjusting device comprising:

10 a first tension adjuster joined to a first side of said axle member, said  
11 first tension adjuster comprising:

12 a first adjustment plate having a first dimension to slidably  
13 engage a guide recess of a first fork of said forked frame  
14 member and a second dimension sufficient to support a first  
15 axle fastener to said axle member to said first adjustment  
16 plate, said first adjustment plate including:

17 an extending member that extends over an end of said first  
18 fork,

19 an axle bore through which said first side of said axle  
20 member passes to receive the first axle fastener to  
21 secure said axle member to said first adjustment plate  
22 and couple said first adjustment plate to said first fork of  
23 said forked frame member,

24 a capturing recess inlet into said first adjustment plate to  
25 secure a first axle fastener to prevent movement of said  
26 first axle fastener during the coupling of the driven wheel,  
27 and



Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

28 an adjustment bore through said extending member, said  
29 adjuster bore aligned with said end of said first fork, and  
30 a first adjustment stud affixed through said adjustment bore to  
31 said first adjustment plate such that said adjustment stud is  
32 in contact with the end of said first fork to allow the axle  
33 member of the driven wheel to move in an adjustment slot  
34 within said guide recess to adjust the tension of the power  
35 transmission means;

36 a second tension adjuster joined to a second side of said axle member,  
37 said second tension adjuster comprising:

38 a second adjustment plate having a first dimension to slidably  
39 engage a guide recess of a second fork of said forked frame  
40 member and a second dimension sufficient to support a  
41 second axle fastener to said axle member to said second  
42 adjustment plate, said second adjustment plate including:

43 an extending member that extends over an end of said  
44 second fork,

45 an axle bore through which said second side of said axle  
46 member passes to receive the second axle fastener to  
47 secure said axle member to said second adjustment

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

48 plate and couple said second adjustment plate to said  
49 second fork of said forked frame member, and  
50 an adjustment bore through said extending member, said  
51 adjuster bore aligned with said end of said second fork,  
52 and  
53 a second adjustment stud affixed through said adjustment bore  
54 to said second adjustment plate such that said adjustment  
55 stud is in contact with the end of said second fork to allow  
56 the axle member of the driven wheel to move in an  
57 adjustment slot within said guide recess to adjust the tension  
58 of the power transmission means;

59 installing said ~~replacement~~ tension adjusting device on said axle  
60 member;

61 placing said driven wheel with said ~~replacement~~ tension adjusting  
62 device between the first and second fork of said forked frame  
63 member;

64 coupling said flexible power transmission means to said driven wheel;

65 modifying placement of said driven wheel such that the extending  
66 members of the first and second adjustment plates are aligned

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

67                                respectively with the ends of first and second ends of the forked  
68                                frame member;

69                                modifying placement of said driven wheel to adjust the flexible power  
70                                transmission means to a preliminary tension; and

71                                varying the first and second adjustment studs to move said driven  
72                                wheel incrementally to adjust the flexible power transmission  
73                                means to a final tension.

1    20.    (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the first and second adjustment plates  
2           are formed of materials selected from the group of materials comprising steel,  
3           aluminum, titanium and carbon epoxy.

1    21.    (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the first tension adjuster further  
2           comprises a captivating nut secured to the first adjustment plate within said  
3           adjustment bore to accept said first adjustment stud.

1    22.    (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the second tension adjuster further  
2           comprises a captivating nut secured to the second adjustment plate within said  
3           adjustment bore to accept said second adjustment stud.

1    23.    (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the first and second adjustment studs  
2           are threaded and include a securing nut.

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

24. (Amended) The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of adjusting said securing nuts for locking said first and second adjustment studs respectively to the first and second adjustment plates ~~with said securing nut~~, when said first and second adjusting studs have moved said driven wheel such that said flexible power transmission means has the final tension.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of providing guide markings on ~~wherein~~ the first and second adjustment plates ~~each include at least one guide marking placed for alignment with calibration marks of said forked frame member~~ to insure that the ~~axle~~ axle member is correctly oriented with respect to said forked frame member.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein varying the first and second adjustment studs to move said driven wheel incrementally comprises the steps of:

selectively adjusting one of the first and second adjustment studs to move said driven wheel such that the flexible power transmission means is at the final tension;

noting location of the axle member within the forked frame member by location of said guide markings; and

adjusting the other of the first and second adjustment studs to move said axle member to align with guide markings.

Appl. No.: 10/633,106	Agent Docket: JS03-001
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005	Reply to Office action of 05/23/2005

1 27. (Amended)The method of claim 19 wherein the flexible power transmission  
2 means is selected from the group of power transmission means consisting of a  
3 chain ~~and said chain is engaged with teeth of a sprocket coupled to said driven~~  
4 wheel and a belt placed on a pulley coupled to said driven wheel.

1 28. (Cancelled)

2 29. (New)The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of:  
3 removing an original equipment tension adjusting device attached  
4 to said axle member and coupled to said forked frame member.